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CHRONICLE

MEETING OF THE HIERARCHY.

With His Eminence Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, in the chair, the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States to the number of sixty met at the Catholic University, Washington, D. C., on September 27 and 28, to consider and deal with many highly important matters affecting the Church in America.

The outstanding results of the meeting were as follows:

The work of the National Catholic Welfare organization is to continue with intensive activity in all its departments.

Archbishop Hanna and Archbishop Curley, appointed as a Committee to issue a statement concerning the status of the N. C. W. C. to the press, spoke as follows to a representative of the N. C. W. C. News Service:

"All the reports of the various departments of the N. C. W. C. were listened to with most intensive interest and were received with sincerest applause.

"These reports brought home to the assembled Hierarchy the enormous amount of work accomplished during the last three years."

A special committee of the Hierarchy, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Moeller, entrusted with home and foreign mission work, reported that it was the sense of the Hierarchy that the Foreign Mission work should be taken care of by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in their dioceses.

The personnel of the Missions Committee were retained in office and were directed by the Hierarchy to take up the work of unifying and systematizing the many home mission activities.

Sunday, October the 28, or the nearest convenient day thereto, was set aside for the taking up of a special collection in every diocese in the United States for the benefit of the suffering people of Austria, Germany and Russia, the funds to be placed at the disposal of the Holy Father.

Under the chairmanship of Archbishop Dowling, a committee was appointed to place before the public the stand of the Catholic Church on education.

The matter of the spiritual interests of Catholic students at secular institutions was discussed, and appropriate measures will be taken to guard such interests.

A special committee was appointed by Cardinal O'Connell, the duty of which will be to make a thorough survey of the Catholic University and to report to the Holy See suggestions for the institutions of the University. Cardinal O'Connell is chairman of this committee, with Archbishops Curley, Hanna, Mundelein, Dowling and Hayes, and Bishops Schrembs, Lillis, Turner, Allen, McDevitt and O'Connell.

A letter written by Cardinal Bisletti, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Studies and Universities, was read, in which, speaking in the name of the Holy Father, the Cardinal Prefect requested the establishment of

a complete school of Canon Law in the University. A letter from Cardinal Gasparri, Secretary of State, was read giving permission in the name of the Holy Father to continue for another ten years the annual collection for the Catholic University.

The Administrative Committee of the N. C. W. C. was re-elected to office, with one change, Rt. Rev. William T. Russell, D.D., of Charleston, resigning, and Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Molloy, D.D., of Brooklyn, being elected to fill the vacancy.

The following special resolution was unanimously approved:

"The Archbishops and Bishops of the United States at their meeting held at the Catholic University have learned with much pleasure of the very splendid work accomplished by the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women during the short time of their existence. They are much gratified at the splendid manifestation of the true Catholic loyalty of both bodies and express the sincere hope that they may continue in the same spirit.

"Let them carry on their work under the guidance and leadership of their Bishops in those dioceses where they are invited to organize and they will become a great power for good and deserve well of the Church in America."

Another resolution was adopted petitioning the Holy See to grant to the Bishop of Albany permission to open an informative process of inquiry into the virtues of Kateri Tekakwitha, the Mohawk Indian heroine of sanctity, who was born and baptized forty miles from Albany, as the first step looking toward her ultimate canonization.

A message was dispatched by Cardinal O'Connell on behalf of the assembled Hierarchy to the Holy See, expressing the sincere loyalty and deep reverence of the American Hierarchy, and the following answer was received by the Cardinal Chairman from His Eminence Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State:

"The Holy Father is deeply affected by the filial homage and devotion of the American Episcopate and most sincerely hopes that important decisions will come from the conference of Bishops, which will bring great good to the Catholic Church in the United States. The Holy Father sends with the most cordial feelings his Apostolic Benediction to the assembled Hierarchy."

Cardinal O'Connell will write a letter on behalf of the American Hierarchy expressing their formal congratulations to the Holy Father on his accession to the throne of Peter, and to thank his Holiness for his very cordial letter dealing with the present work and future development of the Catholic University, and also thanking him for the interest he has always shown in the N. C. W. C.

The meeting of the Hierarchy began at the Catholic University on the morning of September 27 with solemn prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the meeting taking place in accordance with the directions issued by the Holy See. After the reading of the minutes of last year's meeting the report of the Mission Board was heard and discussed and action taken along the lines summarized above.

After the morning session the afternoon was devoted to the hearing and consideration of the reports of the chairmen of the various departments of the National Catholic Welfare Council. All the reports referred to the necessary slackening or suspension of many activities of the Council between the issuance of the first decree of the Consistorial Congregation last February and the present meeting, a period of more than seven months. Despite this handicap, all the reports showed that much important work had been accomplished by the departments. The reports were received with marked appreciation and favor, and the chairmen of the departments were thanked for their successful labors.

The report of Archbishop Hanna, Chairman of the Administrative committee, dealt in a general way with the work of the entire Council through its various departments. Through the Department of Laws and Legislation, the Council was kept informed concerning various important legislative enactments or legislative matters proposed but not yet dealt with, such as the Sterling-Towner Bill, the regulations governing the distribution of Sacramental Wine, the proposed bill for a Federal Department of Education and Public Welfare, and measures relating to the Tariff, Divorce, Birth Control, Immigration, and other legislative matters.

Archbishop Hanna reported that public opposition to the federalization of general education had increased during the past year and the Sterling-Towner Bill had not been pressed for a vote during the last session of Congress. He also reported that a fair solution of the question of the distribution of Sacramental Wine had been obtained, and the new government regulations recently issued had been saved from being unduly onerous.

Special attention was called to the proposed Women's Rights Bill and the endeavor to have this bill enacted as a federal constitutional amendment. The Chairman's report criticized the proposed measure as extremely radical and dangerous to public morality. The text of the proposed bill has been given wide distribution through the Men's and Women's Councils and the Catholic people have been instructed as to its vicious character.

The sending of a special representative of the National Catholic Welfare Council to Haiti and San Domingo appointed to investigate conditions in those places was also reported by Archbishop Hanna, who said that the National Catholic Welfare Council's representative had the opportunity of explaining the position and rights of the Church in Haiti to the members of the Senatorial Committee on Haiti and was of especial assistance to Archbishop Conan of Port-au-Prince in several matters in which the Archbishop was interested.

Effective work had been accomplished during the past year in answering false charges against the Church and in securing either apology or explanation when stories or articles had been published that perverted facts or falsified Catholic doctrine.

The work of the Executive Department in raising the standard of motion pictures was also dwelt upon in the report, which set forth the effort

of representatives of the Welfare Council to bring the production and standards of the motion picture industry nearer to Christian principles.

Continuation of the work of the Historical Records Bureau was referred to as one of the most important activities of the Council, and the necessity of prosecuting this work to a successful conclusion, especially the collection of the names and records of Catholic service men who died in the war, was emphasized. Permission to bless the graves of the American Catholic dead buried in overseas cemeteries had been granted. This work will require at least two years and is now being carried on.

The question of organizing American Catholics in the collection of a European relief fund was recommended to the consideration of the meeting.

The Chairman acknowledged gratefully the cöoperation extended to the Administrative Committee of the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women, both in influencing public opinion and in personally representing defending Catholic claims.

The good work of the Press, Social Action, Education, and Laws and Legislation Departments was summarized and praised.

The report of the Department of Laws and Legislation, submitted by the Rt. Rev. Edmund Gibbons, Bishop of Albany, explained in detail the activities of the year which had resulted in the achievements recorded in the address of the most reverend chairman.

Archbishop Dowling, as Chairman of the Department of Education, reported the principal activities of that department, which included the publication of a catechism of Catholic Education, and numerous special reports, bulletins, and lists of books relative to education.

The department throughout the year has been very active in its opposition to the Sterling-Towner Bill and numerous conferences have been held and opposition to this measure has been established among non-Catholic educators.

As a result of a study made of Philippine students in the United States and the institutions they were attending, a bulletin descriptive of the American Catholic colleges was prepared and printed and copies sent to the Bishops in the Philippine Islands, and to all the Catholic institutions and the public high schools. Letters of thanks and appreciation were received from practically all the Bishops.

The Teachers' Registration Section was opened about the first of April, 1921, to assist Catholic schools and colleges in obtaining lay teachers and to assist Catholic young men and women in obtaining positions. There have been 328 persons registered for placement and requests have been received for 238 teachers for which 710 names of candidates were submitted.

Exhaustive study has been made of all the state school codes and a compilation made of all laws which concerned directly or indirectly private and parochial schools. A study of Catholic schools in their relation to public schools has been made in several European countries. The re-

sult of the study in England, Holland, Scotland and Belgium has been completed and distributed in mimeograph form.

A plan for offering correspondence courses for teaching societies particularly in professional subjects was prepared and submitted to the department.

The Director of the Bureau has assisted in the revival of a project to provide a national trade and agricultural school for negroes to be located in Southern Maryland in the midst of a large Catholic negro population.

The Bureau furnished material which was used in the preparation of programmes for Catholic College Week celebrated throughout the country in May by Catholic high schools and colleges. Catholic college week received generous notice in the secular and Catholic papers and the results obtained were very beneficial to our colleges, especially in the matter of increased attendance.

The establishment of a weekly picture page service was the principal development reported by Bishop Russell in reviewing the work of the Department of Press, Publicity and Literature. He characterized the growth of the News Service as most satisfactory. A year ago the service had 75 subscribers for its News Sheet and 27 for the cable service. There are now 87 subscribers for the News Sheet and 28 for the cable service, including a number of new papers which have been able to start because of the service, some of them in territory hitherto without a Catholic paper.

At the recent convention of the Catholic Press Association, which thanked the Bishops for the establishment of the N. C. W. C. News Service, several speakers pointed out the fact that the benefit of the News Service is not confined to the Catholic papers.

"With its excellent correspondence from all of the important European capitals, its reports of all leading Catholic events in the United States and its page of pictures of Catholic interests, gathered from all countries," said Bishop Russell, "the N. C. W. C. News Service assuredly will enable the Catholic papers, during the coming year to make a stronger appeal than ever to Catholic readers. Those who have been reading the Catholic papers during the past year have found in those papers many stories of important Catholic activities throughout the world which were not reported by the secular press. In place of much news of trivial importance and more of a scandalous nature with which the secular press is usually overburdened, readers of Catholic papers are obtaining information which is enlightening and uplifting. This can not fail to have a strengthening and broadening influence upon the whole Catholic body.

"The N. C. W. C. News Service unquestionably is now the outstanding achievement in Catholic journalism.

"More and more the editors and correspondents of the secular papers are learning to rely upon our press service for accurate information about Catholic action. The value of this close contact of Catholic journalism with the secular press can hardly be over-estimated. It has been a great factor in lessening error and in promoting good will."

On behalf of the Department of Lay Activities Bishop Schrembs in his

report dealt with the work of the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women, his report being followed by a strong resolution commending the work of these two bodies which is given in full above.

Bishop Schrembs pointed out that the work of the National Council of Catholic Men was twofold, first, the cooperation of existing Catholic Men's organizations, and, second, securing and using the aid of these organizations as a corporate whole in ways of national concern which the entire force of Catholic influence was required.

As a result of the last convention and the subsequent work of headquarters and of field men, the National Council of Catholic Men have obtained the affiliation of 1,126 Catholic organizations. Twelve are national; twelve are state; twenty-one are diocesan and 1,081 are individual societies. At the request of the Ordinaries of forty-four dioceses the Council has helped in the organization of forty-four diocesan councils.

These organizations have cooperated or are prepared to cooperate in the work of the National Catholic Welfare Council as a whole and of its various departments. The affiliation of these organizations demands constant communication and correspondence and the resources to send speakers, particularly at large public meetings, and meetings for the purpose of organization.

Bishop Schrembs said that he desired to express gratitude to the president of the National Council of Catholic Men, who like the other officers of that organization, receives no salary. At great personal inconvenience, Admiral Benson journeyed over fifteen thousand miles during the last year, speaking at Catholic meetings and explaining the work and purpose of the National Council of Catholic Men.

In dealing with the Women's Council, Bishop Schrembs dwelt upon the remarkable evidences of the readiness of Catholic Women to cooperate in the national program of the Welfare Council as manifested by the accredited delegates of more than 300 Catholic women's organizations who met in Washington last October. Aside from the accredited delegates, representing twenty-nine states and 114 cities and towns, over 400 individual members were registered at the various sessions of the convention.

Subjects specially considered during the convention were: the immigration problem; care and welfare of girls; need of training Catholic workers in the widening field of social service. The convention officially promised its support to the National Catholic Service School for Women, the establishment of which had been previously approved at a general meeting of the bishops. Suitable buildings for the Service School were secured in Washington and the school, which is the only resident, standard school of its kind in the country, is now in its second year of operation. During the year 1921-22 the school numbered twenty-two pupils. About the same number have registered for the present scholastic term.

The Bishop's report makes an acknowledgement of gratitude to the Right Reverend Rector of the Catholic University for his generous cooperation in promoting the interests of the school. The Women's Council, it

was stated, expects to make use of the school as a meeting place for Catholic women, especially Catholic women representing foreign organizations, coming to Washington.

In cöoperation with the Department of Social Action, the Women's Council sent field representatives to Kentucky, Montana and Texas. In several localities groups for the study of social problems, especially those dealing with the conditions of women in industry, were organized and it was conclusively proved that the Social Action Department and the Department of Lay Organizations could well cöoperate in the sending of field representatives. It was reported that during the past year representatives of the Women's Council attended and made full reports of the meetings of the League of Women Voters, the National Conference of the Pan-American Association, the National Conference of Social Agencies, the Victory Memorial Association, a National Conference for the Improvement of Motion Pictures, and various sessions of the House and Senate Committee handling legislation affecting the interests of Catholic women. During the year Catholic women of the United States were kept fully informed concerning the Sterling-Towner Bill, the so-called Equal Rights Blank Amendment, and Birth Control Propaganda.

Bishop Schremb's report stated that the Women's Council had promoted the distribution of the Welfare Council's pamphlets, especially the *Catechism of Catholic Education*, the *Catechism of the Social Question* and *What Woman's Organizations Can Do*. Many new local organizations had been formed through the interest aroused in the work of Catholic women by the Women's Council, Miss Mary C. Tinney represented the Women's Council at the International Conference on Family Education, the International Conference of the Action Sociale de l'Femme, both held in Paris, the International Conference of the Society for the Protection of Young Girls, at Freiburg, and the Conference of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, in Rome.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Muldoon, Bishop of Rockford, Director of the Social Action Department delivered to the assembled Bishops the report dealing with education toward good citizenship, social work, rural activities and labor relations. Bishop Muldoon told how during the past year it was found necessary to establish a Rural Life Bureau to care for the welfare of rural Catholics in the United States. Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara of Eugene, Oregon, was appointed director of this work at its very inception.

Established on October first last year, Father O'Hara has been able, Bishop Muldoon said, to visit a large number of agricultural colleges in the United States and organize the Catholic students and faculty as a nucleus for local Catholic rural activity. These local and informal organizations can be called upon in various parts of the country to assist the development of a Catholic social programme in rural life. Father O'Hara is making a special study of all of the various aspects of the rural problem from a Catholic standpoint preparatory to publication of a book upon this subject.

Bishop Muldoon in making the report of the work done in the field of good citizenship and social work which is directed by John A. Lapp, LL.D.,

of the Chicago office of the Social Action Department dwelt especially upon the survey undertaken into the social conditions of various sections of the country, the distribution of the *Civics Catechism* and the *Fundamentals of Citizenship* and the establishment of Catholic social study classes among both men and women throughout the country.

Dr. Lapp during the year, at the request of Archbishop McNeil of Toronto, acted as general supervisor of a survey of social needs and social agencies at work in his Archdiocese. Later he did the same for Bishop Busch in the diocese of St. Cloud and assisted in the preliminary survey of the social and religious conditions among Mexicans on the Texas border. The activities of the department's four community centers have been organized and a large number of community meetings promoted and arranged for.

About 125,000 copies of the English and foreign language editions of the *Civics Catechism* and *Fundamentals of Citizenship* have been distributed during the year in every state in the union.

In dealing with the work done in labor relations, Bishop Muldoon emphasized the success of the Department in influencing President Harding to make the first steps toward ending the coal strike. He told also of the social study clubs established and the weekly news service dealing with labor relations.

MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC MEN.

The mission of the Catholic Church to protect the inalienable rights of the individual together with the necessity for organized effort in support of that mission, were the subjects of addresses delivered by members of the hierarchy and distinguished Catholic laymen at the mass meeting held in connection with the convention of the National Council of Catholic Men in Washington on September 28. Particular emphasis was placed upon the need for protection of the rights of parents to direct and supervise the education of their children in religious schools of their choice. The speakers were the Rt. Rev. Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland; the Rt. Rev. Michael J. Gallagher, Bishop of Detroit; Judge Wendell P. Stafford, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia and Rear Admiral William S. Benson, President of the National Council of Catholic Men.

Bishop Schrembs, who as chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations of the National Catholic Welfare Council, presided at the meeting, outlined the fundamental considerations which must govern attempts at the solution of present day problems. On this subject the Bishop declared:

"In the first place, while the theory which would make Christianity a mere program of social reform is untenable and absurd. I make bold to maintain that any attempt at social reform must prove vain and abortive unless it be rooted and founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Revealed religion and revealed religion alone therefore, contains all the principles which, if acted out, deliver man from every evil, be it moral or economic. 'The Truth shall make you free.'"

Praising the efficacy of the application of the teachings of religion to the solution of everyday problems the Bishop cited the example offered by the Middle Ages "when men were happier, when contentment was more universal, when human life was more worth living—the ages, in fine, which have handed down to us the most glorious monuments of human genius whether in the world of letters or in the world of art."

The Bishop's second proposition as he outlined it was: "that it is not Christianity that has failed but the world which has rejected Christianity. A false philosophy which arose some four hundred years ago and which deified human reason at the expense of divine revelation and refused submission to any save the authority of man's own individual judgment; a philosophy which started with liberalism in religion, has come to a disastrous end at last in the universal shipwreck of nations, as this same liberalism has applied to matters moral, social, economic, and political."

"My third and last proposition," Bishop Schrembs continued, "is that only a return to Christian principles can redeem the world and bring back to it that peace which it lost when it rejected Christianity." Pointing out that wherever the life of the Church was manifest in a vigorous and healthy Catholic life, it would be found that the Church was thoroughly organized, the Bishop summarized his conclusion by saying: "I am merely stating what must be evident to every man of sense, that Catholic interest demands the formation of a great organization which will embrace and gather together all the forces for the promotion and defense of those

sacred interests wherever and whenever they are unjustly attacked by anti-Catholic or non-Catholic forces; an organization which will unite individuals and parishes without destroying the individuality of either; an organization which will feed and nourish all associations within and in turn be fed by them; an organization which will demand no more nor be satisfied with no less than what is implied by the word 'Catholic.' An organization such as he had described, the Bishop emphatically declared, is the National Council of Catholic Men."

The existence of a nation-wide organized attempt to wipe out the parochial school, which, he prophesied, would be only the forerunner to the abolition of other fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, was charged by Bishop Gallagher, of Detroit. Discussing the strenuous campaign carried on recently in Michigan by those who wish to abolish the parochial schools in that State the Bishop, through whose efforts the anti-parochial school legislation has been three times defeated, uttered a solemn warning that this attempt to make the children the property of the State rather than of the parents was nothing short of "absolute tyranny." Those who would make the State absolute and leave the will of the majority absolutely unchecked forget, Bishop Gallagher said, that "the Declaration of Independence put a limit upon the authority of the majority."

He pointed out that in the Declaration of Independence there are some rights that are refined as "inalienable," and declared that the most important of all rights of the individual are those of parents with respect to their children. "It seems that the American people do not realize the life-and-death importance of these fundamental rights," he said. "Possibly it is because they have never as a people felt the oppression which results from the operation of principles opposed to these rights."

"We need a national organization to fight attempts to set aside these rights," Bishop Gallagher declared, "because the movement against us is national."

Justice Stafford, who became a convert to the Catholic faith at the age of fifty nine, talked of the influence which led to his decision to enter the Church. Chief among them he placed the feeling inspired by the Real Presence which, he said, manifested itself long before he realized what it was, or had any notion of becoming a Catholic.

Rear Admiral Benson, president of the National Council of Catholic Men, in a brief address, directed, as he said, to the members of the hierarchy and the clergy, expressed the desire of the laity represented by his organization to advance the interests of the Church and to work in close coöperation with the ecclesiastical authorities. Declaring that the laymen's organization desires and needs the support and coöperation of the hierarchy and of the parish priests in all parts of the country, he urged that any dissatisfaction with the work of the laymen be promptly brought to the attention of the Council's officials.

Many of the Archbishops and Bishops of the nation who were in Washington to attend the meeting of the Hierarchy at the Catholic University attended the mass meeting.